

## Entering a New Year

### Excerpts from Allan Gold's inaugural speech

**D**uring this last year as vice president I have thought a lot about what it means to be leading Sha'ar Zahav now. I'd like to share some of my musings with you. Tonight we are celebrating the 14th anniversary of the congregation's founding. Perhaps it is no accident that I am assuming the role of guide to the congregation on its 14th birthday. Many of you know that I am a school psychologist. While I work with children from kindergarten through eighth grade, it is with the young adolescents that I most enjoy working. There is much to the psychology of these young people that intrigues me and I usually feel very successful in helping them through their developmental struggles. I often witness a great maturing, integration, and increase in ability to understand themselves and cope in the world. What I don't get to do is help them through the next steps of maturing.

In many ways, I think CSZ is at a similar point in its development. Like the young adolescent, we have had a major growth spurt over the past several years. We seem to be leveling off somewhat, but we have had a hard time getting used to our new bodies. The comfort and familiarity of our early years has been challenged not only with an increase in size, but in the diversity of our membership. We have been sometimes gawky and awkward in trying to integrate everyone into our collective family, just as the teenager no longer fits very well into his or her family. Over the past few years we have been confronted with some profound questions about our identity. Whom are we serving: gay men, singles, lesbians with children, couples, older people, younger people, wealthy people, less affluent people? Are we mainstream or radical? Where do bisexuals, non-gay people, and Jews-by-



*Jonathan Funk and Susan Gelmis leading Rosh Hashanah services.*

choice fit in? The answer, of course, is that CSZ is all of us and is here for all of us. Just as we learned a new ritual language many years ago which we affectionately call "Reconservadox," we are also learning how to work together to speak a new language of human interaction. The young adolescent is often very afraid of differences and, in order to protect himself or herself, tends to attack peers and adults alike. As the maturing process takes place, often around 14 or 15, the young people begin to accept their own differences and the differences in others, with much more objectivity and compassion. I believe we at CSZ are at that point now, where we have the capacity to accept, respect, and embrace all of our members for themselves and what they have to offer our community.

Young people are greatly concerned with physical, psychological, and financial independence. While we have achieved a measure of physical independence with our building and have become a respected and, indeed, world-renowned institution, we have not yet achieved financial security. Like the teenager always having to ask an adult for a handout, we come to our members constantly for more money. We are not quite ready as a group to assume full responsibility for our own self-support through adequate dues, yet we are moving in that direction.

Teenagers first develop and articulate a set of values and begin to live by them in a conscious way. The recent develop-

ment of our mission statement as part of our Long Range Plan and the plan itself are value-based guides to the kind of congregation we want to be and how we will realize our mission. At our leadership Advance, the unifying theme of our workshops was value-based policy making. We placed priority on respect for our diversity, living by Torah, and financial security, as well as being a model for other gay and lesbian Jewish organizations and outreach to our communities. We are learning to guide our organizational behavior by adherence to these values rather than responding to expedience, self-interest, or loud persuasion.

As young people begin to struggle with the implications of being able to look beyond themselves to a greater purpose, so we at CSZ are grappling with the dichotomy of each of us asking the synagogue to serve our needs at the same time that it asks us to volunteer in order both to survive and thrive. I have had my own internal dialogue about

*Continued on page 6*

## Women's Chavurah

**D**on't miss the social event of the fall season, Saturday, October 26, at 6 pm, at Susan Tubbesing's, 3433 Brunell Drive, Oakland, (510) 482-3740. We will celebrate Havdalah, plan chavurah activities for the new year, and generally shmooze and enjoy everyone's favorite pot luck dish.

Directions: Brunell is located above Highway 13, in the Oakland Hills. Exit Highway 13 at Joaquin Miller/Lincoln. Drive up Joaquin Miller to Butters, turn right and follow Butters as it winds around the hill to Brunell Drive. Turn right on Brunell Drive and go to 3433.

If your last name begins with A-H, please bring a salad or side dish; I-P, a main dish; Q-Z, a dessert. Call if you need directions to Highway 13 or just want to kibbitz about your ideas for the Women's Chavurah. See you there!



## Rabbi's Column

I am writing this on the day after Yom Kippur, with the glow of the High Holidays still fresh. The beautiful and moving services—made possible through the dedicated work of innumerable volunteers—were a fitting beginning to an exciting new year for our congregation. There are a variety of continuing and new congregational activities to which I wish to call your attention:

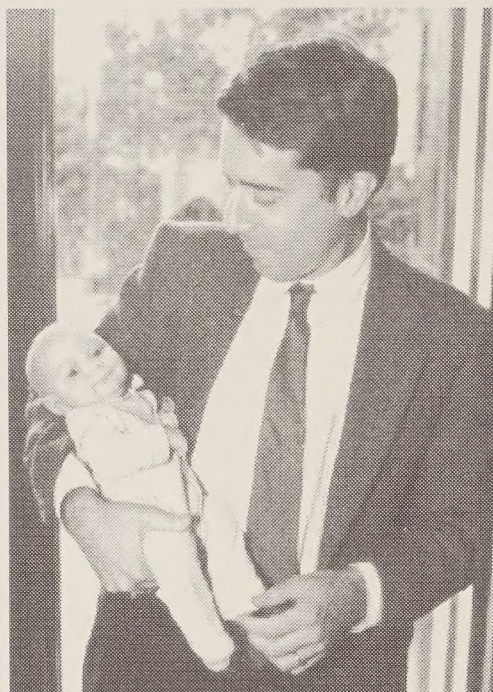
- The largest selection ever of adult education classes, co-sponsored with Lehrhaus Judaica (details are on page 3). CSZ members are entitled to discounted tuition at Lehrhaus' other San Francisco sites. Lehrhaus also offers classes in Berkeley and at Stanford. Catalogs are available on the back table of the sanctuary or by calling the Lehrhaus Judaica office at 845-6420.

- CSZ's Phyllis Mintzer will be teaching the Chevra for Jewish Life, a two-year course about basic elements of Jewish living, which meets in private homes. Phyllis' class will meet in San Francisco on Monday evenings; additional classes are offered in Berkeley and Palo Alto. Call Lehrhaus Judaica at the above number for registration and scholarship information.

- Together with the Northern California Hillel Council and Pa'amayim, UC Berkeley's group for gay, lesbian and bisexual students, CSZ will be hosting a Gay and Lesbian Students Night on Friday, October 25. Invitations have gone out to graduate and undergraduate students at Bay Area campuses and the oneg is being sponsored by Northern California Hillel. Jenny Helbraun, our former office manager and now director of graduate programs at the Hillel Council, is the moving force behind this important and surely "only at CSZ" program.

- On Friday, November 8, I shall host a Shabbat dinner for CSZ members with HIV/ARC/AIDS and their lovers/family members. If you would like to come, please call the office; you may RSVP anonymously. If you have any questions, please call me at the synagogue.

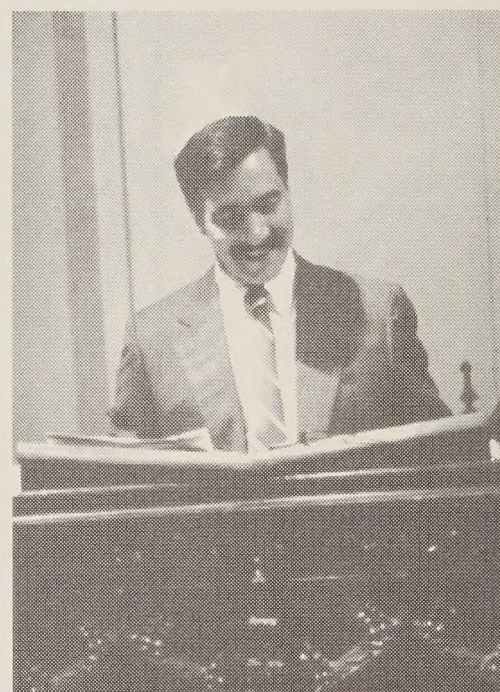
I think that we can all be justly proud that the members of our congregation have gotten so actively involved in all aspects of our ritual life. Have you ever thought about giving a sermon during the High Holidays? How about beginning with a Shabbat evening service?



Dan Bellm with Adam David Bellm Kahn

Even if you have no ambitions to speak at the Unitarian Center for the next High Holidays but would enjoy giving a short *derash* on a Shabbat evening, please give me a call. If you would like a copy of any of the sermons from this year's High Holidays, please contact the synagogue office.

Now that the holidays are over and my household has begun to adjust to its new member, I am at the synagogue on a regular schedule again. If you have been hesitating to call or to schedule an appointment, please be in touch.



Rabbi Kahn

**The Jewish Gaily Forward** is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$18/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Howard Blechman, chair, Matthew Abergel, Leonard Brill, Ellen Murland, Irene Ogus, Alita Rosenfeld, and Lane Schickler (general editorial and production), Michael Bettinger (photographer), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Merry Luskin, Sam Thal, Lin Turner, Eli Weinstein and Ron Wilmot (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Mouse Type Inc., and printed by Lou Greene.

**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

## New Member Potluck

October 20  
4-7 pm

Call synagogue  
office for  
information

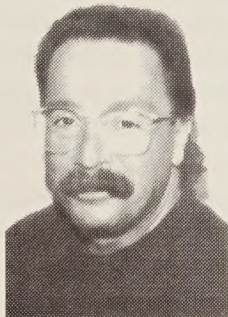
**Everyone welcome!**



## Volunteer Recognition

Our volunteer honorees for October have each demonstrated their commitment to the congregation throughout the past decade.

Allan Berenstein remembers coming to Sha'ar Zahav when it was meeting at Dovre Hall. He lived in the South Bay and did not actively practice his Judaism. Attending CSZ became part of his "coming out process as a gay man with a Jewish identity." As a native San Franciscan, Allan has been pleased to find old acquaintances and friends reappearing in his life through membership in the congregation.



Allan Berenstein

One day in the fall of 1982, Ron Lezell called and asked Allan to come to a meeting at New College to plan the first "Megillah Madness." Allan agreed to co-chair the event with David Stein and, as a result of this effort, decided to move back to the city "because the congregation had become such a strong connection in my life." Later, Allan served for a year as membership chair, founded the men's support program of the blood drive and was elected twice to the Va'ad.

As one of the few congregants with young children in the early '80s, Allan made CSZ services and the Passover seder important events for both himself and his sons. He believes "that through their attendance they developed an appreciation for Judaism and my gay lifestyle and that they have become better adults for the experiences with our members." He sees the synagogue as different today from when he joined, but "my Jewish identity and pride is bound up with CSZ—it is my religious home. In the early years we worked for it to be there for future generations and now we are seeing the next generation of members become our leaders."

Before his involvement with the congregation he had not been active as a volunteer in any community activities. Now, after five years as co-chair of the monthly Kaiser brunches, he has also become a volunteer at Davies Medical Center, the Family Link Project (pro-

viding accommodations for family members visiting patients with terminal illnesses) and Hope House (a residence for people with AIDS). Although Allan has retired from the insurance business, he stays busy because "writing a check is not enough; I help people because I discovered I can."



Betty Kalis

She used to write a WAC column for the camp paper and was, of course, promoted to editor.

After receiving her graduate degrees in psychology at Berkeley, Dr. Kalis joined the staff of Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute. In addition to serving as a clinical professor at UCSF, she opened a private practice in the city in 1971.

Alienated from formal Judaism as an adult, Betty was intrigued by a friend's invitation to come to Sha'ar Zahav for a service in 1981. She joined because "I liked what I felt and I stayed." She especially liked the congregation after 1982, because it was at High Holiday services that she re-met Marion Trentman and began a new relationship.

Betty's holiday "pitches" are still as meaningful as the Shabbat "pitches" she gave in 1985-86 as our treasurer. As Bikkur Cholim chair in 1982-83, she used the skills that later also made her a valuable member of the elections committee, the Women's Chavurah, the Va'ad and the planning committee for the Taste of Honey conference. A member of the committee that developed our cookbook, Betty wrote the warm and anecdote-filled introductory section.

For the past two years, Betty has capably served as High Holiday ticket administrator. She has contributed so much of herself because the congregation gives her a "feeling of extended family and a spiritual community." Her good feelings about being in a synagogue that truly honors the equality of women has enabled Betty to be an active participant in "our continuing of tradition."

## Fall Classes Line-Up

Join us for our exciting line-up of fall classes co-sponsored with Lehrhaus Judaica and the San Francisco Jewish Community Center.

Beginning Tuesday, October 8, Phyllis Mintzer will again present her acclaimed "Introduction to Judaism" (7:15-8:30 pm in the library) and "Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew" (8:30-9:45 pm in the library). Both of these classes will consist of 10 sessions.

Rabbi Kahn is excited about leading his class, "Sanctifying Time: Rituals and Spirituality in Daily Life." His class also begins on Tuesday, October 8 and lasts for eight sessions (8-9:30 pm in the sanctuary/oneg room).

On Wednesdays, Rabbi Nancy Flam will offer "Sickness and Health, Using Jewish Sources." This class begins October 9 and runs eight sessions (7:30-9 pm in the library).

Leah Sudrin will teach a class on "Judaism and Social Action" beginning Thursday, October 10 for eight sessions (7-8:30 pm in the sanctuary).

The Adult Education Committee subsidizes a portion of the fees for CSZ members. The Rabbi's class is free to members. For more information call the office.



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## September Va'ad Report

Rabbi Kahn announced with sadness that our member, Frank Hyman, died September 13. Over the years Frank was involved in numerous leadership roles in the congregation, including coordinating High Holiday services, organizing brunches at Kaiser Hospital, and distributing our newsletter. He was a soft-spoken, sensitive, caring, generous man, and his death is a tremendous loss to our community. This has been an especially difficult period in our congregation—seven Sha'ar Zahav members have died since July 1.

Rabbi Kahn continued with the subject of atonement. We learned that one atones on Yom Kippur for the sins committed against God; we must atone personally to the individuals we have hurt. Hurtful actions have a sort of ripple effect; when we hurt one person, we often hurt others and the larger community indirectly. So it is impossible to ask forgiveness personally of all those whom our errors have affected. In that spirit, Rabbi Kahn asked forgiveness for his errors of commission and omission, and expressed his hope that we will be a forgiving community.

Ron Lezell, Israel Chavurah chair, described the many ways in which ARZA brings the values of Reform Judaism to Israel. In addition to supporting religious pluralism in Israel, ARZA has been our advocate in other ways as well: When the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations donated 3000 trees to the JNF, the JNF refused to acknowledge the source of that contribution with a plaque. ARZA is serving as an advocate of the Congress in attempting to resolve that dispute.

Ron emphasized the particular importance of joining ARZA now: The World Zionist Congress is meeting in 1992, and ARZA's representation there will be proportional to its membership. The number of ARZA delegates will determine how many Reform Jews will sit on the board of the Jewish Agency, and thus the ways in which UJA's funds will be spent in Israel.

The Va'ad gave final approval to 20 individuals and four families admitted as members by the special pre-High Holiday subcommittee. Judy Schwartz, membership chair, reported that in the last two months, 51 new people have joined.

Tiela Chalmers, program vice president, presented a list of working statements from the Long Range Plan to be implemented by the Va'ad. These statements fall into three general categories: first, good things to keep in mind and remind ourselves of now and then (example: promote awareness at meetings of the value of celebrating diversity, respect for contributions, and "shalom bayit"); second, more concrete action on the part of the individual Va'ad members (example: assume at least one leadership task beyond attending board meetings); third, a definite action plan to be implemented by the Va'ad (example: form a haggadah production committee).

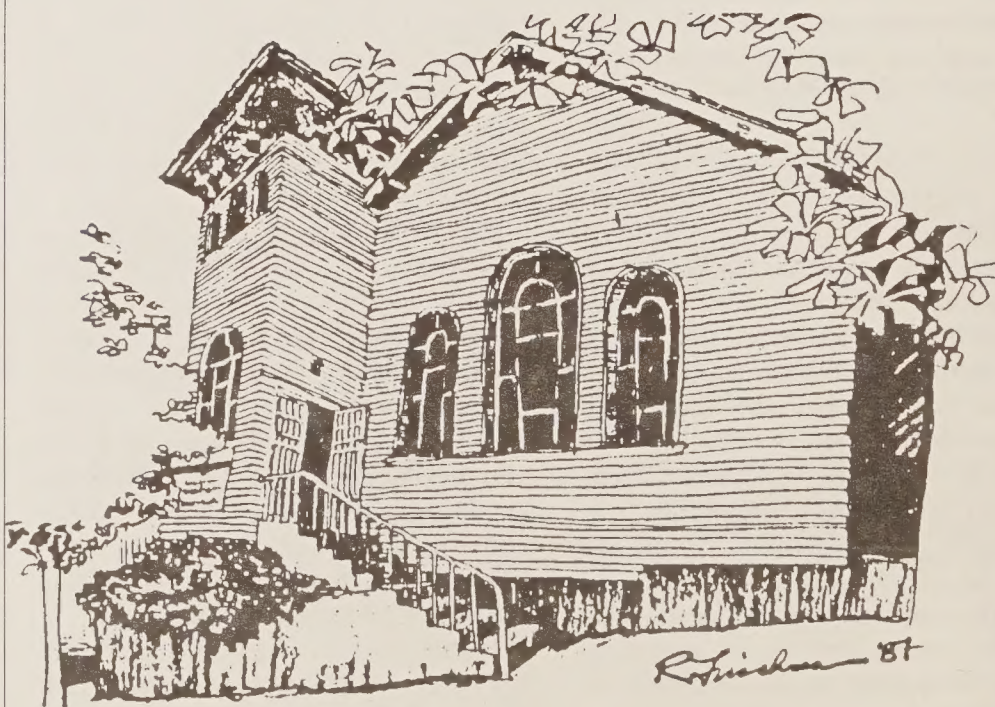
Brett Trueman, our treasurer, reported that the collection of dues is up \$35,000

in dues to date over last year's figures. That, combined with the proceeds from the International Conference, combine to make our current budget picture look better. However, High Holiday ticket sales have brought in only \$9,500 so far, versus the budgeted \$12,000. Fortunately, Brett projects that we anticipate collecting \$144,000 in dues this year, whereas we budgeted only \$130,000. If we consider the expected shortfall in donations together with the higher-than-expected dues collection, it looks as if we shall probably raise at least as much as was budgeted.

Noting that nearly half of our Friday night onegs currently go unsponsored, Brett proposed, accepting some friendly modifications by Claudia Bernard, that

*Continued on page 9*

### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav **Gift Shop**



#### **New Autumn Hours**

**Friday Nights 7:30–8:05 • Monday Nights 5–6:15**

**Come see our new merchandise!**





## Birthdays

- 2 Sharyn Saslafsky
- 2 Gregory Jonathan Rubin
- 4 Richard P. Inlander
- 5 Jeffrey H. Weil
- 7 David Wasserman
- 7 Scott Feinstein
- 7 Randy Heilbrunn
- 7 Michael A. Zimmerman
- 8 Marc Cohen
- 8 Joella M. Harlan
- 10 Lisa Ginsburg
- 11 Forrest Kincade
- 12 Debra Chasnoff
- 13 Joshua Kennedy Rose
- 13 David Gellman
- 14 Michael Bettinger
- 14 Lisa Rachel Hirsch
- 16 Kim Klausner
- 17 Deborah Hoffman
- 18 Steven Horowitz
- 19 Benjamin Brody
- 20 Milton Estes
- 20 Bernard Pechter
- 20 Margot Damasara
- 20 Ron Moskowitz
- 21 Charles Norton
- 21 Lawrence Hyman
- 23 Seth Charney
- 23 Maayan Estelle Lieberman
- 23 Jerome Hipps
- 24 L. Shuli Goodman
- 28 Yoel Kahn
- 29 Pamela Miller
- 29 Allan Berenstein
- 31 Jesse Hornstein

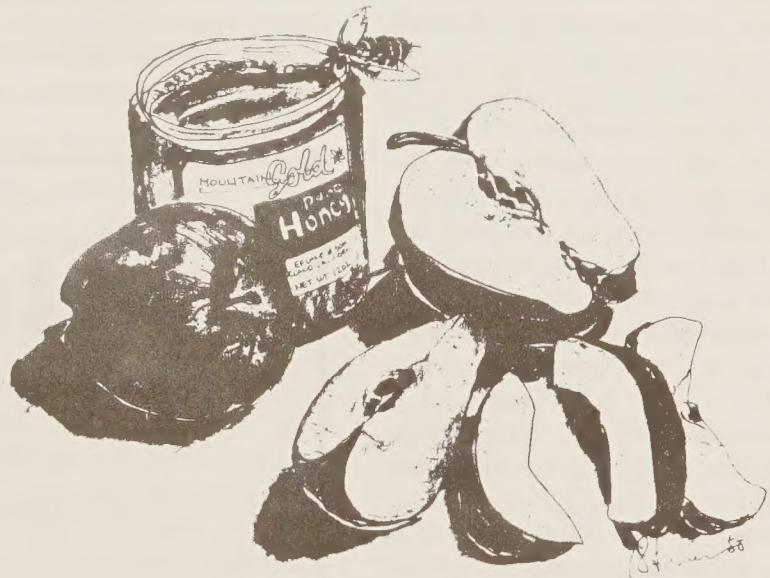


Triple trouble at High Holiday childcare



## Anniversaries

- 1 Brian Ellis & Steven Farmer
- 12 Alex Ingersoll & David Stein
- 21 Roslyn Fuerman & Ann Kennedy
- 29 William S. Goldstein & Chris Archuleta
- 30 Gail Friedlander & Gail Atkins
- 31 Roberta Weber & Lynn Alcorn



### MEMBERSHIP

Check it out.  
Besides the benefits  
it feels good to be  
part of Sha'ar Zahav.

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## President's Speech

*Continued from page 1*

whether it is the organization's responsibility to meet all of its members' perceived needs or whether it is each member's responsibility to contribute to the well-being of the organization, even if he or she doesn't benefit directly. These are some of the same questions that mid-adolescents consider—how to accept responsibility within their communities—family, school, or other organization, even if there are ways they'd rather spend their time or money. I have concluded that in maturing we do need to go beyond ourselves, to give tzedakah, to volunteer, to sacrifice. What we get back may not always appear directly or immediately, but the rewards are there.

So if we accept this general metaphor for CSZ's current stage of development, what is the role of its president? By the time people are teenagers, what they need from a parent is gentle guidance and help with organization, good modeling of adherence to solid moral values, the support to take risks and try new things, a sense of perspective, and good humor. My vision of my role fits compatibly with those attributes. I think I will be a gentle leader, but a directed, organized, and encouraging one. My respect for our diversity will propel my goal of having everyone feel welcome and included here. By modeling my own hard work and volunteerism, I hope to convey my desire that all members will be willing to contribute at least some small effort to keep this place going. I have witnessed over and over the surge of enthusiasm, energy, and creativity that comes from participation. Those willing to take the risk to try something new and put forth the needed effort are quickly incorporated into our CSZ family and embraced by it. Many people think that it's very hard to break into CSZ, that there's some impermeable ingroup. It's just not true. One example that comes to mind is a new member who seemed to have many skills. I asked her if she would consider chairing High Holiday arrangements this year. After thinking for a day or two, she left a message on my machine saying that she wasn't sure what it would entail, but it sounded challenging and she was willing to try. Rash and impetuous, maybe. But that's the kind of positive attitude that I'm hoping we can all muster up. We welcomed and appreciated her ef-

forts, and, by the way, my choice was an excellent one—everything is proceeding very well. More important is that we now have a new person making friends here and feeling a part of our community.

I never cease to be amazed at what we do accomplish here. At our Advance, in my closing remarks I listed the things that we had accomplished just in the past year. We completed our 75-page, five-year Long Range Plan, with the bulk of the work done last year. We revised the governance structure of the officers and the board creating two vice presidents and three-year Va'ad terms, as well as a Leadership Development Program. We addressed our fiscal crisis with a revised dues plan and the institution of a Dues Committee. And we put on the tremendously successful 12th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations. At a recent meeting of the Dues Committee a past president of a Peninsula temple met with us to give some helpful counsel. Her words of praise for CSZ and our reputation in the Bay Area, California and national

Jewish communities were glowing and heartfelt. We do make a difference.

I expect the positive changes of last year to continue. Some of the goals that I have are to begin to implement our Long Range Plan in many areas. Robin Leonard has recently accepted the new position of volunteer coordinator, to identify, organize and promote volunteer efforts. Gail Friedlander will be working on streamlining our operations through developing a procedural manual, and David Stein and Alex Ingersoll will be organizing all of our past policies into an indexed manual. Bill Ashley-Dobbin will take over the new role of archivist to preserve our fascinating history. Our Leadership Development Committee will be providing training for current and potential leaders. We will be developing a new Hagaddah. On the financial front, we will be creating a fundraising committee, and I hope to rejuvenate our dormant Social Programming Committee and men's Brotherhood. I feel greatly energized and excited by all of these efforts to have

*Continued on page 8*

## Legal help.

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wills and powers of attorney,  
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## Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

### General Fund

*We encourage donations to the General Fund in particular to help offset our budget deficit.*

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Ruth Gelmis

John and Hedda Kornfeld, in memory of Frank Hyman

Susan Greenspan, in memory of Bill Schlichter, Ernie Weinstein, Donald Thompson; Mazel Tov to Allan Gold's new presidency and Max's first birthday

Mark Mackler & Ingu Yun, in honor of the anniversary of Jon Funk and John Arnold, Adam David Bellm Kahn and in memory of Ruth Gelmis

Shelley Gartner, in memory of Dann Gartner

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in memory of Bill Schlichter

Eric, Aaron & Shawn Cooper-Keitel, in memory of Ruth Gelmis

Robin Leonard and Lee Ryan, in memory of Jay Feinstein

Sam Thal, in memory of Frank Hyman  
Misha Cohen, in memory of Jacqueline Cohen

Robert Tat, in memory of Ernie Weinstein

### AIDS Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Rob Schultz

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Dan and Yoel's Kiddushin

### Torah Fund

Don Albert, in memory of Frank Hyman

## Screening Party

Don't miss the screening party and fundraiser this fall for *Everyone Has a Name*, a 15-minute version of the documentary (in progress) of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Tour in Israel. Interviews raise issues of government policy towards AIDS, homophobia, AIDS in the Arab community, AIDS education in schools, etc. Please come and help support AIDS education in Israel.

Call Lisa or Miki at 621-4286 for information.

## New Members

Prior to High Holidays, the following people were voted into membership by the subcommittee established by the Va'ad at the last Va'ad meeting:

William Ambrunn

Gary Bass

Maxine Epstein and Geraldine Barr

Sheila C.

Heather Fox

Jonathan Comisar

Lucy Fine

Eric Glassgold

Lisa Geduldig and Larry Helman

Neil Grungras

Jeri Hixon

Raphael Hoch

Rebecca Issacs and Vanessa Schwartz

Joshua Lee

Alice Prussin

David Rosenthal

Judith Scherr

Susan Schwartz

Steven Wiesner

Stephanie Wolper

Stan Kern

Eileen and Jonah Levy

Leonard Karp

We're grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our CSZ community.

## Yizkor Elohim

*We mourn the recent deaths of our members:*

Alex Konski, July 9

Seth Miller, July 25

Phil Resnick, July 30

Ernie Weinstein, August 5

Bill Schlichter, August 23

Jay Feinstein, August 28

Frank Hyman, September 13

## Condolences

To Scott Feinstein on the loss of his lover Ernie Weinstein

To Ron Wilmot on the loss of his lover Frank Hyman

To Steve Gaynes on the loss of his lover Conrad Reny

## Oneg Sponsors

During recent months, onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

8/30 Jeff Friedman in memory of his father's yahrzeit

9/20 Susan Greenspan in memory of her mother, Fritzie Greenspan

9/27 Lonnie Weiss in honor of the visit of Lonnie's parents

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.



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**Opens early September**

*...and may you be inscribed and sealed*

655-1977





## President's Speech

*Continued from page 6*

CSZ make a difference in the lives of our members.

So how did it happen that I am here tonight? When I said a moment ago that CSZ makes a difference in the Jewish community, I know that for all of us CSZ made a tremendous difference personally. When I first came to a CSZ service back in 1978, I was a rather confused and troubled 32 year old. But my step in attending that service was the beginning of my healing and my integration. For so many of us, particularly for people of my generation and older, this was the first place that we could be both gay and Jewish at the same time. Being here allowed me to resolve my long overdue adolescent identity struggle, to accept myself, and to find loving and continuing support. Over the years I have developed an extended family of friends upon whom I can rely, even if I don't see them all the time. Even when the cast of characters changes, and it does, my basic core sense that this place is my spiritual and psychological anchor doesn't change.

This has been an incredible year for me. I have found to my delight that even in early middle age (which I hate to admit publicly), it is possible to grow. I received a very wonderful professional honor in the spring, my work continues to be satisfying and, in fact, I probably had the best year out of 15 in terms of variety of work, learning new skills, and connection with parents and kids; my relationships continue to grow and deepen in ways that I haven't experienced before. In particular, I want to thank Gary for his patience and support for my work here during the past year. My parents are as loving and supportive as parents can be. Though I'm HIV-positive, my good health is a blessing that I cherish, but do not understand, and cannot explain. I do know that while I am well I must do all that I can to give my life meaning. Because I feel so rich, so blessed, so supported, I feel that it is time to return to CSZ a small measure of what I have received here. I am deeply honored by the trust that you are placing in me to guide you for two years. My heart is in it, and with your patience and understanding for any mistakes, oversights, and delays, and your help, encouragement, friendship, hard work, and good spirit, I know it will be a won-

derful experience for me and I hope for the congregation. I'm sure that I will gain far more from my term of office than I will give. In addition to meeting and getting to know many of you, I very much look forward to working with Rabbi Kahn, my officers Claudia, Tiela, Kathy, and Brett, and all of the board and committees. You may be sure that

CSZ is in good hands with these fine people. So, in the spirit of torah, and with God's blessing, let us together proceed from strength to strength.

*Michael Bettinger is our photographer. Michael took all photos in this issue except the one of Betty Kalis.*

## Synagogue Information

### Rabbi Yoel Kahn

#### Officers:

*President, Allan Gold, 929-9524*  
*Administrative Vice President,*  
*Claudia Bernard*  
*Program Vice President,*  
*Tiela Chalmers*  
*Treasurer, Brett Trueman*  
*Recorder, Kathy Simon*

### Va'ad (Board) Members:

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 Daniel Chesir  
 Steve Elman  
 Lisa Katz  
 Ida Kuluk  
 Jeffrey Miller  
 Nathan Robinson  
 Judy Schwartz  
 Susan Unger

### Office Personnel:

*Manager, Mark Pressler*

### Committee Chairs:

*Archivist, Bill Ashley-Dobbin*  
*Bikkur Cholim, by committee*  
*Brotherhood, Eric Keitel*  
*Building, by committee*  
*Bylaws, Edward Pollock*  
*Cemetery, Richard Inlander*  
*Children's Chavurah, Audrey*  
*Adelson & Joan Lefkowitz*  
*Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard*  
*Dues, David Stein & Ron Lezell*  
*Education, by committee*  
*Finance, by committee*  
*Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin*

*Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell*  
*Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers*  
*& Daniel Chesir*  
*Membership, Judy Schwartz*  
*Newsletter, Howard Blechman*  
*Oneg, by committee*  
*Past Presidents Council, Don Albert*  
*Personnel, Claudia Bernard*  
*Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky*  
*Religious School, Mary Morgan &*  
*Judith Cohen*  
*Ritual, Larry Wexler*  
*Social Action, Jonathan Mesinger*  
*& Lisa Katz*  
*Social Program, Marc Mencher*  
*Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard*  
*Women's Chavurah, Ann Biderman*

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

**Office Hours:** Mon. 8-5; Tues. 8-4:30; Wed., Thu. 8-2:30; Fri. 8-3. Phones will be answered Mon.-Fri. 10-2.

**Services** are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second and last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

**Library Hours:** Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

**Gift Shop Hours:** Mondays 5-6:15 pm; Fridays, 7:30-8:05 pm

**Emergency Number:** In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

**Member** of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Allyce Kimerling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Eric Keitel, Liaison).

**Congregation Sha'ar Zahav** (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.



## Va'ad Report

*Continued from page 4*

we try a new oneg-sponsoring system. A list of all members' birthdays and anniversaries occurring during the upcoming quarter will be sent to the congregation, and members can, for \$10, co-sponsor the oneg on the last Friday of each month in honor of any birthdays or anniversaries occurring during that month. On the last Friday of each month, the names of the sponsors and the names of all members having birthdays or anniversaries will be read. On all other Friday nights, individuals may sponsor onegs for special events or commemorations. The Va'ad decided to try the new system.

Rabbi Kahn announced that Kadimah has opened with a larger-than-expected group of six or seven young children. The class of sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders, on the other hand, has lost students. We have been able to arrange a partnership with a congregation in the East Bay for one of our congregants to attend Bar Mitzvah training classes at that synagogue. Our adult education program is also getting under way. Two of this year's classes, "Introduction to Judaism," and "Sanctifying Time: Rituals and Spirituality in Daily Life," are designed especially for those with limited formal Jewish education or for those not born Jewish. Rabbi Kahn also intends to begin again an outreach group for those who are HIV-positive.

In his president's report, Allan Gold appointed Irene Ogus to the Leadership Development Committee in place of Diana Buchbinder (who moved to Seattle). Judith Cohen has agreed to take Diana's place as co-chair of the Children's Education Committee. The Va'ad moved to thank Diana for all of her work on behalf of the congregation. Thanks also went to Jonathan Goldman for organizing the blood drive, and to Ellen Gierson, who volunteered to be our new Building Committee chairperson.

Mark Pressler, office manager, reported that he is doing his best to keep the library clean, but frequently finds food, drinks, wrappers, and general disarray when he arrives in the morning. Mark would appreciate everyone's help in keeping the library clean and functional.

In his report, Rabbi Kahn commented on what a difficult few months this has been for him personally and for our con-

gregation. Visiting in the hospital, attending funerals, even hearing the yahrzeit list has been painful; this has been the biggest stretch of loss in our congregation's history.

We adjourned with the singing of Oseh Shalom.

—Kathy Simon

## Office Notes

Now that the Holidays are over, the office can get back to housecleaning tasks. Please send in or call in any changes to your personal information, such as birthdays, anniversaries, addresses.

We are looking for a fax machine! If you know anyone who is upgrading an office, or just wants to donate a fax machine to our office, please let us know. Help us move swiftly into the 21st century.

## Thank You, All Ushers

As head usher for the High Holidays this year, I was blessed with a group of ushers who made my job easy because of the speed, efficiency, personal warmth and sense of fun that they brought to their work. I would like to publicly thank the following people for all their hard work: Pesse ApNeva & Nina Wouk, Alison Cohen, Paul Cohen, Lynn Eden & Ruth Schoenbach, Robin Eig & Alane Freund, Steven Elman, Nancy Facher, Roslyn Fuerman & Katye Gulley, Jerry Geffner, Howard Goldberg, Lawrence Hyman, Allyce Kimmerling, Josh Lee, Eileen & Jonah Levy, David Lopes, Julie Moed, Jacob Robinson, Margaret Rosoff, Jeffrey Rubin, Richard A.R. Shoemaker, Eric Temple, Sylvia Weisenberg, Eric Weiss, Jim Wilson and Michael Zimmerman. I hope that future head ushers will be as fortunate as I was to work with such a great group!

—Nathan Robinson

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## OCTOBER

## תשרי-חשוון

**1** Tuesday  
23 Tishri

**2** Wednesday  
24 Tishri

**3** Thursday  
25 Tishri  
• 7pm, Children's Education meeting

**4** Friday  
26 Tishri  
• 8:15pm, Services, Daniel Chesir and Kathy Simon

**5** Saturday  
27 Tishri  
• 9:30, Kadimah

**6** Sunday  
28 Tishri  
• 10am-2pm, Women's Chavurah art gallery day

**7** Monday  
29 Tishri  
• 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting

**8** Tuesday  
30 Tishri  
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism class  
• 8pm, Rituals ... Daily Life class  
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew class

**9** Wednesday  
1 Heshvan  
• 7:30pm, Sickness and Health ... Jewish Life class

**10** Thursday  
2 Heshvan  
• 7pm, Education Committee meeting  
• 7pm, Ritual Committee meeting  
• 7pm, Judaism and Social Action class

**11** Friday  
3 Heshvan  
• 8:15pm, Services, Rabbi Kahn and Lyssa Friedman

**12** Saturday  
4 Heshvan  
• 9:30pm, Kadimah

**13** Sunday  
5 Heshvan

**14** Monday  
6 Heshvan

**15** Tuesday  
7 Heshvan  
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism class  
• 8pm, Rituals ... Daily Life class  
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew class

**16** Wednesday  
8 Heshvan  
• 7:30pm, Sickness and Health ... Jewish Life class

**17** Thursday  
9 Heshvan  
• 7pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting  
• 7pm, Judaism and Social Action class  
• 8:30pm, Yiddish class

**18** Friday  
10 Heshvan  
• 8:15pm, Services, Henry Mach and Susan Unger

**19** Saturday  
11 Heshvan  
• 9:30pm, Kadimah

**20** Sunday  
12 Heshvan  
• 4pm, New member potluck, 532-9661 for info

**21** Monday  
13 Heshvan  
• 7pm, Membership Committee meeting, 532-9661

**22** Tuesday  
14 Heshvan  
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism class  
• 8pm, Rituals ... Daily Life class  
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew class

**23** Wednesday  
15 Heshvan  
• 7:30pm, Sickness and Health ... Jewish Life class

**24** Thursday  
16 Heshvan  
• 7pm, Judaism and Social Action class  
• 8:30pm, Yiddish class

**25** Friday  
17 Heshvan  
• 8:15pm, Services, Rabbi Kahn and Scott Mezistrano

**26** Saturday  
18 Heshvan  
• 9:30am, Kadimah family day  
• 10:30am, Shabbat services, Rabbi Kahn  
• 6pm, Women's Chavurah potluck

**27** Sunday  
19 Heshvan  
• 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch

**28** Monday  
20 Heshvan

**29** Tuesday  
21 Heshvan  
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism class  
• 8pm, Rituals ... Daily Life class  
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew class

**30** Wednesday  
22 Heshvan  
• 7:30pm, Sickness and Health ... Jewish Life class

**31** Thursday  
23 Heshvan  
• 7pm, Judaism and Social Action class  
• 8:30pm, Yiddish class

*Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.*

*Dr. Diane Sabin*

CHIROPRACTOR

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